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4-15-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

Takashi MURAKAMI et al.

Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Docket No. 2002_0334A

Serial No. 10/090,779

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Filed March 6, 2002

REMOTE MAINTENANCE SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

APR 16 2002

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the reference listed on attached form PTO-144. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or

(2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,

- d. [X] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. [X] a concise explanation of relevance for reference AJ is as follows:

The present invention is similar to the "remote maintenance system" described in Japanese Laid-Open Patent application No. 2001-195119 in the configuration that there are a remote maintenance server (a home server) which is connected to equipment via a network in a house and an out-of-home server (a center server) outside a house.

The out-of-home server judges a failure state in the "remote maintenance system" described in Japanese Laid-Open Patent application No. 2001-195119, while the home server judges a failure state in the "remote maintenance system" of the present invention.

- 5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi MURAKAMI et al.

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